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HIS MAIESTIES ANSVVER TO THE PETITION

Of the LORDS and COMMONS in *PARLIAMENT* ASSEMBLED.

Presented to His MAIESTIE at YORK, *June* 17. 1642.

LONDON,
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To the Kings most Excellent Majestie.

The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled.

WE Your Majesties most humble and faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, have lately received a Petition from a great number of the Gentry, Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the County of *York*, assembled there by Your Majesties Command the third of *June*, wherin they declare unto us, *That having taken a resolution to addresse themselves unto Your Majestie in the humble way of a Petition, for the redresse of those Grievances which they now lie under, they were violently interrupted and affronted therein by the Earle of* Lindsey, *the Lord* Savill, *and others, and notwithstanding all the means they could use to present their just desires to Your Majestie, yet they could not prevaile with Your Majestie to accept of their Petition*; The Copie whereof they have sent to us, with an humble Desire, *That we would take such course therein, as may tend to the Preservation of their Liberties, and the Peace of the Kingdom*; *And that we would addresse our selves to Your Majestie in their behalf, that by our means their desires may finde better acceptation with Your Majestie*: Whereupon, having seriously weighed, and considered the particulars of those their Complaints and Desires, as they are laid downe in their Petition; And finding that the Grievances they complain of, are the increase of the miseries formerly sustained by that Countie (which hath well-nigh for three yeers last past been the Tragicall Stage of Armies & War) by reason of Your Majesties distance in Residence, and difference in Counsels from your great Councell, the Parliament, begetting great distempers and distractions thorowout the Kingdom, and especially in that Countie; The drawing to those Parts great numbers of discontented Persons, that may too justly be feared do affect the publike Ruine for their private advantage; The drawing together of many Companies of the Trained Bands, and others both Horse and Foot of that Countie, and retaining multitudes of Commanders and Cavaliers from other parts; The daily resort of Recusants to Your Majesties Court at *York*; The great preparations of Arms and other warlike Provisions, to the great terrour and amazement of Your Majesties peaceable Subjects, and causing a great decay of Trade and Commerce amongst them. All and every of which particulars are against the Law, which Your Majestie hath made so many and so frequent Professions to uphold and maintain. And the Lords and Commons finding on the other side their humble desires to be, That Your Majestie would hearken to your Parliament, and declining all other Counsells whatsoever, unite your Confidence to your Parliament, and that your Majestie would not divide your Subjects joynt dutie to your Majestie, the Parliament and Kingdom, nor destroy the Essence of your great Councell and highest Court, by subjecting the Determinations and Counsells thereof to the Counsells and Opinions

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of any private persons whatsoever; That your Majestie having passed an Act, That this Parliament shall not be dissolved, but by Act of Parliament, your Majestie would not do any thing tending thereunto, by commanding away the Lords and great Officers, whose attendance is necessary thereunto; That your Majestie having expressed your confidence in the affections of that Countie, you would please to dismisse your Extraordinary Guards, and the Cavaliers and others of that qualitie, who seeme to have little Interest or affection to the publike good, their language and behaviour speaking nothing but Division and War, and their advantage consisting in that which is most destructive to others. And lastly, that in such Consultations and Propositions as your Majestie maketh to that Countie, such may not be thrust upon them as men of that Countie, that neither by their fortune or reference are any part of it.

All which their humble and most just desires being according to Law, which your Majesty hath so often declared should be the Measure and Rule of your Government and Actions; And we your Majesties most faithfull Subjects the Lords and Commons fully concurring with the Gentlemen and others of the Countie of *York* in their assurance that those desires of theirs will abundantly redound to the glory of God, the honour and fatetie of your Majestie, the good of your Posterity, and the Peace and Prosperitie of this Kingdom; we humbly beseech your Majestie graciously to hearken unto them, and to grant them; and that you would joyn with your Parliament in a speedy and effectuall course for the Preservation of their Liberties, and the Peace of the Kingdom, which dutie, as we are now called upon by that Countie to discharge, so do we stand engaged to God and man for the performance thereof by the trust reposed in us, & by our solemn Vow and Protestation; And your Majestie, together with us, stands engaged by the like Obligation of trust, and of an Oath, besides the many and earnest Professions and Protestations, which your Majestie hath made to this Purpose to Your whole Kingdom in generall, and to that County in particular; the peace and quiet of the Kingdom (as is well observed by these Gentlemen and Free-holders of *Yorkeshire* in their Petition) being the onely visible means under God, wherein consists the Preservation of the Protestant Religion, the Redemption of our brethren in *Ireland*, and the happinesse & prosperitie of your Majesty, and of all your Dominions.

His MAJESTIES Answer to the Petition of the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, presented to His MAJESTIE at *Yorke*, the 17. of *June*, 1642.

HIs Majestie having carefully weighed the matter of this Petition presented to Him at *York* on Friday the seventeenth of June, by the Lord *Howard*, Sir *Hugh Cholmely*, Sir *Philip Stapleton*, though He might referr the Petitioners to His two last Declarations, wherein most of the Particulars in this Petition are fully answered, or might refuse to give any Answer at all, till He had received satisfaction in those high Indignities He hath so often complained of, and demanded Justice for; Yet that all the World may see how desirous His Majestie

is to leave no Act which seemes to carry the Reputation of both His Houses of Parliament, and in the least degree to reflect upon His Majesties Justice and Honour, unanswered; Is graciously pleased to returne this Answer:

That if the Petition mentioned to be Presented to both Houses of Parliament had been annexed to this now delivered to Him, His Majestie might have discerned the number and the qualitie of the Petitioners, which His Majestie hath great reason to beleeve was not in truth so considerable as is pretended: For His Majestie assures you, that He hath never refused any Petition so attested as that would be thought to be; But His Majestie well remembers, that on the third of June, when there was upon His Majesties Summons, the greatest, and the most cheerfull concourse of people that ever was beheld of one County, appearing before him at *York*, a Gentleman (one Sir *Thomas Fayrfax*) offered in that great Confluence a Petition to His Majestie, which His Majestie seeing to be avowed by no man but himselfe, and the generall and universall Acclamations of the people seeming to disclaim it, did not receive, conceiving it not to be of so publike a nature, as to be fit to be presented or received in that place: And His Majestie is most confident, (and in that must appeale to those were then present) that what evet the substance of that Petition was, it was not consented to by any considerable number of Gentry, or Free-holders of this Countie; but solicited by a few, mean, inconsiderable persons, & disliked, and visibly discountenanced by the great Body of the known Gentry, Clergie and Inhabitants of this whole Countie: And if the matter of that Petition was such as is suggested in this, His Majestie hath great reason to beleeve it was framed and contrived (as many others of such nature have been) in *London* not in *Yorkeshir*; For sure no Gentleman of qualitie and understanding of this Countie, would talke of His great Preparations of Arms, and other warlike Provisions, to the great terrour and amazement of His peaceable Subjects, when they are witnesses of the violent taking His Arms from Him, and stopping all wayes for bringing more to Him: And if there were no greater terrour and amazement of His Majesties peaceable Subjects in other places by such Preparations and Provisions, there would be no more cause to complaine of a great decay of Trade and Commerce there, then is in this place: But His Majestie hath so great an assurance of the fidelitie and generall affections of His good Subjects of this Countie, (which He hopes will prove examplar over His whole Kingdom) that He hath great cause to beleeve, That they doe rather complain of His Majesties Confidence, and of His Slowneſse; That whilest there is such endeavour abroad to Raise Horse, and to provide Arms against His Majestie, and that endeavour put in execution, His Majestie trusts so much to the Justice of His Cause, and the affections of His people, and neglects to provide strength to assist that Justice, and to protect those affections.

For any affronts offered by the Earl of *Lindsey*, or the Lord *Savill*, to those who intended to Petition His Majestie; His Majestie wishes that both His Houses of Parliament would have examined that Information, and the credit of the Informers, with that gravitie and deliberation, as in Cases which concern the Innocence and Honour of Persons of such qualitie hath been accustomed, before they had Proscribed two Peers of the Realm, and exposed them (as much as in them lay) to the rage and fury of the people, under the Character of being *Enemies to*

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the Common-wealth, A brand newly found out (and of no Legall signification) to incense the people by, and with which the simplicity of former times was not acquainted; and then His Majestie hath some reason to beleeve, they would have found themselves as much abused in the report concerning those Lords, as He is sure they are in those which tell them *of the Resort of great numbers and discontented Persons to Him*, and of the other particulars mentioned to be in that Petition; Whereas they who observe what resort is here to his Majestie, well know it to be of the prime Gentlemen of all the Counties in *England*, whom nothing but the love of Religion, the care of the Laws, and Liberties of the Kingdom, besides their affection to his person, could engage into great Journeys, trouble and expence, Men of as precious Reputation, and as exemplary Lives, as this Nation hath any, whose assistance His Majestie knows he must not expect, if he should have the least Designe against Honour and Justice; and such witnesses his Majestie desires to have of all his actions.

For the declining all other Councels and the uniting His confidence to His Parliament, His Majestie desires both His Houses of Parliament seriously and sadly to consider, that it is not the name of a great or little Councell that makes the Results of that Councell just or unjust; neither can the imputation upon His Majesty of not being advised by His Parliament (especially since all their Actions and all their Orders are exposed to the Publike view) long mislead His good Subjects, except in truth they see some particular sound advice necessarie to the peace and happinesse of the Common-wealth disesteemed by His Majestie, and such an instance He is most assured neither can nor shall be given, and that they will think it merit in His Majestie from the Common-wealth to reject such Councell as would perswade Him to make Himself none of the three Estates, by giving up His negative voice to allow them a power superiour to that which the Law hath given Him, whensoever it pleaseth the major part present of both Houses to say that He doth not discharge His trust as He ought, and to subject His, and His Subjects unquestionable Right and Propriety to their Votes, without and against Law, upon the meer pretence of necessitie. And His Majestie must appeal to all the world, who it is that endeavours to divide the joynt dutie of His Subjects, His Majestie who requires nothing but what their own duty, guided by the infallible Rule of the Law, leads them to do, or they who by Orders and Votes (opposite and contradictory to Law, Custome, president and reason) so confound the affections and understandings of His good Subjects, that they know not how to behave themselves with honestie and safetie, whilest their conscience will not suffer them to submit to the one, nor their securitie to apply themselves to the other. It is not the bare saying that His Majesties Actions are against the Law (with which he is reproached in this Petition, as if he departed from his often Protestations to that purpose) must conclude him, there being no one such particular in that Petition alledged, of which his Majestie is in the least degree guiltie; whether the same reverence and esteem be paid by you to the Law (except your own Votes be Judge) needs no other Evidence, then those many, very many Orders published in Print, both concerning the Church and State, those long Imprisonments of severall persons without hearing them, upon generall information, and the great and unlimited Fees to your Officers, worse then the imprisonment, and the arbitrary cen-

ſure upon them when they are admitted to be heard; Let the Law be judge by whom it is violated.

For that part of the Petition which ſeems to accuſe his Majeſtie of a purpoſe to diſſolve this Parliament (contrary to the Act for the continuance) by commanding away the Lords and great Officers, whoſe attendance is neceſſarie, which his Majeſtie well knows to be a new Calumny, by which the Grand Contrivers of ruine for the State hope to ſeduce the minds of the people from their affection to, or into Jealouſie of his Majeſtie, as if he meant this way to bring this Parliament (which may be the caſe of all Parliaments) to nothing; it is not poſſible for his Majeſtie more to expreſſe his affection to, and His Reſolution for the Freedom, Libertie and Frequencie of Parliaments, then he hath done; And who ever conſiders how viſible it muſt be to his Majeſtie, that it is impoſſible for him to ſubſiſt without the affections of his people, and that thoſe affections cannot poſſibly be preſerved or made uſe of but by *Parliaments*, cannot give the leaſt credit, or have the leaſt ſuſpition, that his Majeſtie would chuſe any other way to the happineſſe he deſires for himſelf and his Poſteritie, but by Parliaments: But for his calling the Lords hither, or any others abſenting themſelves, who have not been called, who ever conſiders the Tumults (which no Votes or Declaration can make to be no Tumults) by which his Majeſtie was driven away, and many Members of either Houſe in danger of their lives, the demanding the names of thoſe Lords who would not conſent to their Propoſitions by Meſſage from the Houſe of Commons delivered at the Barr by Maſter *Hollis*, with that moſt tumultuous Petition in the name of many thouſands (among many other of the ſame kind) directed to the Houſe of Commons, and ſent up by them to the Houſe of Lords, taking notice of the prevalence of a malignant Faction, which made abortive all their good Motions, which tended to the peace and tranquillity of the Kingdom, deſiring that thoſe noble Worthies of the Houſe of Peers, who concurred with them in their happie Votes, might be earneſtly deſired to joyne with that honourable Houſe, and to ſit and Vote as one entire Body, profeſſing that unleſſe ſome ſpeedie remedie were taken for the removeall of all ſuch obſtructions as hindered the happie progreſſe of their great endeavours, their Petitioners ſhould not reſt in quietneſſe, but ſhould be inforced to lay hold on the next remedie which was at hand to remove the diſturbers of their Peace, and (want and neceſſity breaking the bounds of modeſty) not to leave any means unaſſayed for their relief, adding that the cry of the poore and needy was, That ſuch perſons who were the Obſtacles of their Peace, and hinderers of the happy proceedings of this Parliament might be forthwith publikely declared, whoſe removeall they conceived would put a Period to theſe diſtractions: upon which a great number of Lords departing, the Vote in order to the Ordinance concerning the *Militia* was immediately paſt, though it had been twice before put to the Queſtion, and rejected by the Votes of much the major part of that Houſe. And who ever conſiders the ſtrange Votes and Declarations which have ſince paſſed, to which whoſoever would not conſent, that is, with freedom and liberty of language and reaſon profeſſe againſt, was in danger of Cenſure and Impriſonment, will not blame Our Care in ſending for them, or theirs in coming, or abſenting themſelves from being involved in ſuch Concluſions. Neither will it be any objection, that they ſtayed there long after any Tumults were, and therefore that the Tumults drave them not away:

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If every day produced Orders and Resolutions as illegall as, and indeed but the effects of the Tumults, there was no cause to doubt the same power would be ready to prevent any Opposition to those Orders after they were made, which had made way and preparation for the Propositions of them, and so whosoever conceived himself in danger of future Tumults (against which there is not the least provision) was driven away by those which were past; And his Majestie hath more reason to wonder at those who stay behind, after all his Legall Power is Voted from him, and all the People told, That he might be with modesty and duty enough deposed, then any man hath at those who have been willing to withdraw themselves from the place where such desperate and dangerous Positions are avowed; which his Majestie doth not mention with the least thought of lessening the Power or Validity of any Act, to which he hath given his Assent this Parliament; All and every of which he shall as inviolably observe, as he looks to have his own Rights preserved, but to shew by what means so many strange Orders have of late been made; And to shew how earnestly his Majestie desires to be present at, and to receive Advice from both Houses of Parliament (against whom it shall never be in the power of a Malignant Partie to incense his Majesty) his Majesty again offers his consent, that both Houses may be adjourned to another Place, which may be thought convenient, where his Majestie will be present, and doubts not but the Members of either House will make a full Appearance; And even the Intermission which must attend such an Adjournment may not be the least means of recovering that temper, which is necessary for such Debates.

And this His Majesty conceives to be so very necessary, that if the minds and inclinations of every Member of either House were equally composed, the Licence is so great that the mean people about *London* and the Suburbs have taken, that both for the Liberty and Dignity of Parliament that Convention for a time should be in another place. And sure how much soever the safety and security of this Kingdom depends on Parliaments, it will never be thought that those Parliaments must of necessity be at *Westminster*.

His Majesties Confidence is no lesse then he hath expressed (and hath great cause to expresse) in the affections of this County, an instance of which affections all men know his Guard (which is not extraordinarie) to be, and wonders that such a legall Guard at his own charge, for his Person (within twenty miles of a rebellion, and of an Army in pay against him) should be objected by those, who for so many moneths, and in a place of known and confessed security, have without and against Law kept a Guard for themselves at the charge of the Commonwealth, and upon that stock of money which was given for the relief of the miserable and bleeding condition of *Ireland*, or the payment of the great debt due to Our Kingdom of *Scotland*.

For the resort of Papists to the Court, his Majesties great care for the prevention thereof is notoriously known, that when he was informed two or three of his intended Guard were of that Religion, he gave especiall direction, with expressions of his displeasure, that they should be immediately discharged, and provided that no person should attend on him under that Relation, but such as took the oaths of Allegiance and Supremacie; that he commanded the Sheriffe to proceed with all severity according to the Law against all Papists that should come within five

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miles of the Court, and if notwithstanding this there be any Papists neer the Court, (which his Majestie assures you he knows not, nor hath heard but by this Petition) He doth hereby command them to depart, and declares to all Officers and Ministers of Justice, that they shall proceed strictly against them according to the Law, and as they will answer the contrary at their perils.

For the language and behaviour of the *Cavaliers* (a word by what mistake soever it seemes much in disfavour) there hath not been the least complaint here, and therefore it is probable the fault was not found in this County. Neither can His Majesty imagine what is ment by the mention of any men thrust upon them in such Consultations and Propositions as His Majesty makes to this County, who are neither by their Fortune or Residence any part of it, and therefore can make no Answer to it.

To conclude, His Majesty assures you, He hath never refused to receive any Petition, whether you have or no, your selves best know, and will consider what Reputation it will bee to you of Justice or Ingenuity to receive all Petitions how senseless and scandalous soever of one kinde, under pretence of understanding the good peoples mindes and affections, and not onely refuse the Petition, but punish the Petitioners of another kind, under colour that it is a crime that they are not satisfied with your sense, as if you were onely trusted by the People of one opinion; To take all paines to publish and print Petitions which agree with your wishes, though they were never presented, and to use the same Industry and Authority to keep those that indeed were presented and avowed from being published (though by Our own Authority) because the Argument is not pleasant to you; To pretend Impartiality and Infallibility, and to expresse the greatest passion and affection in the Order of your Proceeding, and no lesse errour and mis-understanding in your Judgements and Resolutions. He doth remember well the obligation of His Trust, and of His Oath, and desires that you will do so too, and your owne solemn Vow and Protestation, and then you will not onely think it convenient, but necessary to give His Majesty a full Reparation for all the scandalls laid upon Him, and all the scandalous Positions made against Him, and that it is lesse dishonour to retract errors, then by avowing to confesse the malice of them, and will see this to bee the surest way for the Preservation of the Protestant Religion, the redemption of Our Brethren in *Ireland*, the Happinesse and Prosperity of your selves, and of all Our Dominions, and of the Dignity and Freedom of Parliament.

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